XXII. *An Account of an* extra-uterine Conception; *by* Starkey Myddelton, *M. D.*

London, March 28. 1745.

Read March 28. 1745.

ALTHO' extra-uterine Conceptions have frequently appear'd from Caſes of undoubted Authority, many of which ſtand now upon the Records of the *Royal Society*; nevertheleſs I have thought a Doctrine of ſo extraordinary a Nature cannot be too ſtrongly ſupported, as it is of the higheſt Conſequence, as well in eſtabliſhing the received Opinions of Conception in general; as in regulating the Judgment and Practice of thoſe who are more particularly employed in the Buſineſs of Midwifry.

I ſhall therefore make no Apology for laying before this Learned *Society* a Caſe which affords ſuch convincing Proofs of this Doctrine, and comes at the ſame time too well atteſted to admit of any Doubt, either as to the Fact, or the Circumſtances.

On the 28th of *October* laſt, I was ſent for to a Woman of about 42 Years of Age. When I came, I was told by the Patient, that ſhe had been taken with a Flooding the Day before; which a little ſurpriſed her, as having been very irregular in her menſtrual Diſcharges for near a Year before.

At the ſame time ſhe complained of a great Pain in her Belly and Loins, with a continual Forcing both forward and backward; which ſtill continued, tho' her Flooding was then in a manner ſtopp'd.

I order'd her a gentle Paregoric for that Night, and the next Day I found her in great Pain; at which time

time ſhe told me, ſhe had ſome Reaſon to believe ſhe had conceived with Child.

I then examined her, and found the *Os Tincæ* intirely cloſe. I was not very curious in my Examination at this time; taking it for granted, from what ſhe had told me, that Nature would, in a little time, diſpoſe the *Uterus* to diſcharge its Contents, tho' at preſent there was not the leaſt Appearance of it. I order'd her an anodyne Clyſter, and a Paregoric to be taken after it; and the next Day I found her Pains continued, which now appeared like a *Teneſmus*; tho' ſo violent, as to prevent her Reſt all that Night. I then ordered her a Repetition of the Clyſter and Paregoric; and the next Day (finding her in great Pain, and ſtill without any Reſt, and beginning to be a little feveriſh) I ordered 8 Ounces of Blood to be taken away, and continued the Paregoric, which I likewiſe order'd her to repeat as ſhe found Occaſion; from the Uſe of which ſhe ſometimes reſted tolerably well; but as the Power of the Opiate went off, her Pains always returned.

Several Days having now paſſed without any Alteration, I again examined her, and found the *Os Tincæ* ſtill as cloſe as ever; but, on a ſtricter Inquiry, I felt ſomething, which ſeem'd to me to be the Head of a Child fluctuating in its Membranes.

I told her my Thoughts of her Caſe, and that it was not in my Power to help her; but that Nature muſt take its Courſe, or at leaſt point out a Method how to act. She ſeemed very much ſurpriſed at my Opinion, and asked me, If ever I had met with ſuch a Caſe before? I told her, I had been engaged in the Practice of Midwifry upwards of 20 Years; in all

which time I had never met with a Caſe of the like Nature: Being poſitive I felt the Head of a Child, but could not abſolutely determine whether it was in the *Uterus* or *extra Uterum*.

I then told her, I would deſire the Favour of Dr. *Bamber* to give her a Viſit; which I did; and the next Day we went together; when, on Examination, he confirm'd what I had before aſſerted; but ſeem'd more inclinable to believe the Child (the Head of which he felt) was *extra Uterum*. Indeed he proceeded in his Inquiry at that time further than I had done before, having paſs'd his Finger into the *Anus*, where, he ſaid, he could diſtinguiſh the Head more plainly. We then both left her, after having order'd her to repeat the Paregoric, when in more Pain than ordinary, and once in two or three Days to take a gentle lenitive Purge to keep her Body ſoluble; becauſe the continual Uſe of Opiates would naturally tie her up.

In this manner ſhe went on for about three Weeks longer; when I waited on Dr. *Nichols*, and deſired the ſame Favour of him as I had before ask'd of Dr. *Bamber*, that I might have his Opinion alſo of a Caſe which appeared ſo very ſingular.

The next Day we went together; and when we came, I deſired he would examine her, which he did; and after having heard all her Complaints, ſaid, He was of Opinion, that there was ſome Abſceſs forming in (or in Contact with) the *Uterus*, which, very likely, in a little time, would break and diſcharge itſelf; but as, at that time, nothing of a Child could be perceived by the Touch, ſo he was obliged

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to ſubmit that to the Credit of my Opinion, who had before frequently felt it.

Thus ſhe continued for about a Fortnight after this Viſit; when, calling on her one Day, ſhe told me, ſhe was much eaſier than ſhe had been; and that ſomething came conſtantly draining away by the *Anus*, of a very offenſive Smell, which, upon Examination, appeared to be true *Pus*. I now began to think Dr. *Nichols*'s Opinion of her Caſe the moſt eligible, and the rather, as it was not inconſiſtent with my own Sentiments, that there had been a Child; which, being now dead, might have given Occaſion for the forming ſuch an Abſceſs.

In this State of violent Pain ſhe continued to the Time of her Death, which happen'd on the 28th of *January*, being thirteen Weeks from the firſt of her Illneſs; when, by her particular Deſire, I open'd her, in the Preſence of Dr. *Bamber*, Dr. *Nicholls*, Dr. *Eaton*, and Mr. *Jones* Surgeon, *&c.*

After having divided the Integuments of the *Abdomen*, every thing, at firſt View, appeared in a healthy State. On turning aſide the Inteſtines, I found the *Uterus* ſound and perfect, and of a Size common to Women who have had Children; but, in the Place of the Right *Fallopian* Tube, there appeared a large Tumour, formed by the Expanſion of the Tube extending itſelf from the *Os Ilium* towards the Extremity of the *Sacrum*. Upon opening it, we diſcover'd a Maſs of fetid *Pus*, in which the Bones of a *Fœtus*, of about 5 or 6 Months old, were buried. Theſe Bones were, for the moſt part, wholly diveſted of their Fleſh; ſo that the Edges of the thin Bones muſt, of Neceſſity, cut and irritate from every Motion

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of the Body. The *Pus* had made its Way thro' the *Rectum*, in which there was a ſmall Paſſage a little above the *Sphincter*.

Upon examining the Bones, after having waſh'd them in Water, a new Matter of Surprize appeared; *viz.* the inferior Jaw was conſolidated with the *Os Temporis* and ſuperior *Maxilla*; and ſix of the Ribs, with their correſpondent *Vertebræ*, were united into one Bone.

May we not attribute theſe *Anchyloſes* to the Want of Motion in the *Fœtus*, which was here prevented, by its being cloſely pent up in ſo unnatural a Situation? If this be the Caſe, we ſee great Advantages ariſing from the frequent Motions of the *Fœtus* in the *Uterus*; and that Providence has not ſubjected the tender Part of our Species to ſuch conſtant Diſturbances without great Neceſſity.

See TAB. I. *Fig.* 8.

A, The *Uterus*.
B, The *Os Tincæ*.
C, The *Vagina*.
D, The left *Fallopian* Tube.
E, The Beginning of the right *Fallopian* Tube in its natural State.
F, The *Sacculus*, formed by the Expanſion of the right *Fallopian* Tube, in which the *Fœtus* was contained.
G, The *Ligamentum rotundum* on the left Side.

Printed for C. DAVIS, over-againſt *Gray's-Inn Gate* in *Holbourn*, PRINTER to the ROYAL SOCIETY, M.DCC.XLV.

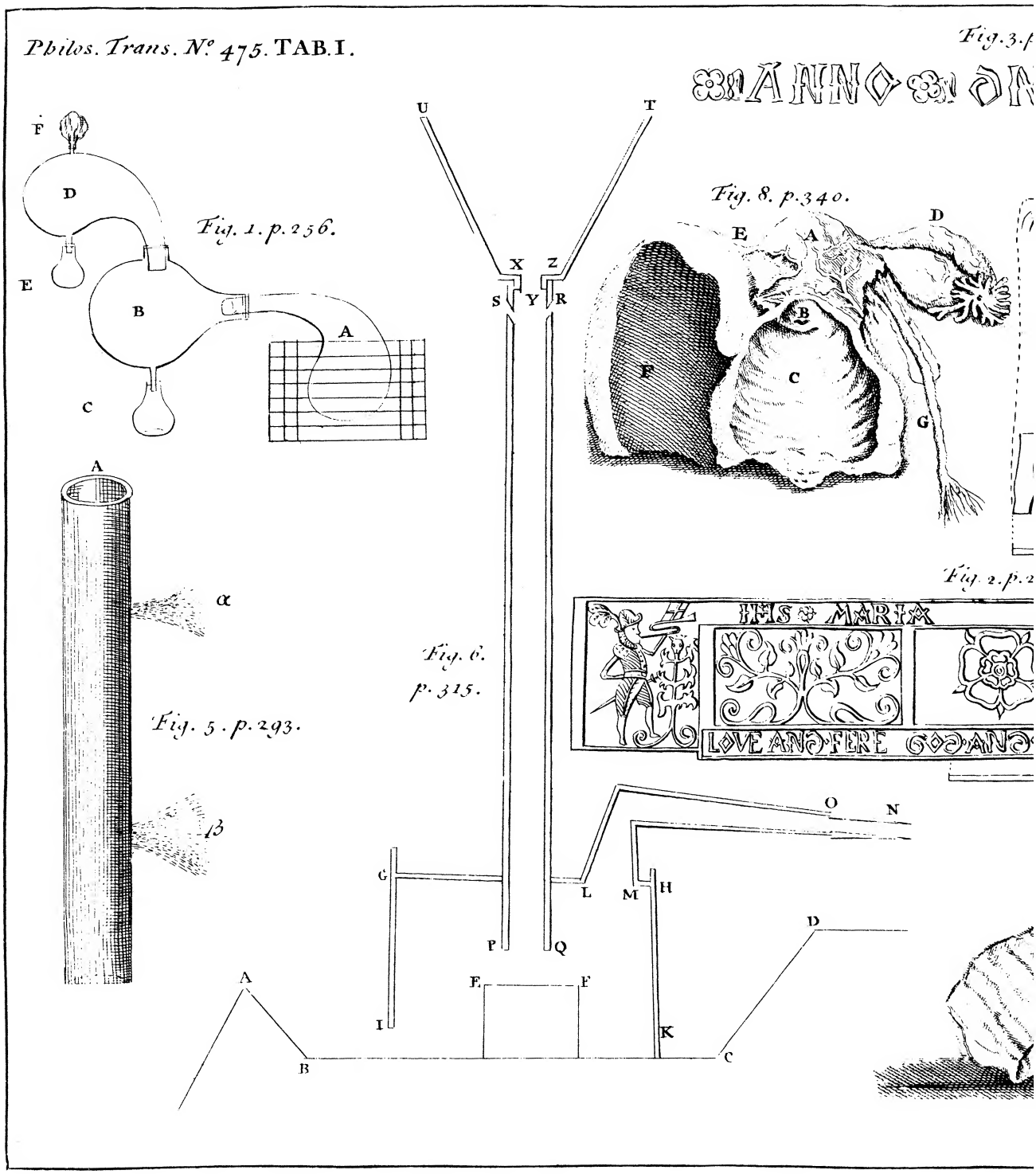
Fig. 1. p. 256.
Fig. 5. p. 293.
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Fig. 3. p
Fig. 2. p. 2
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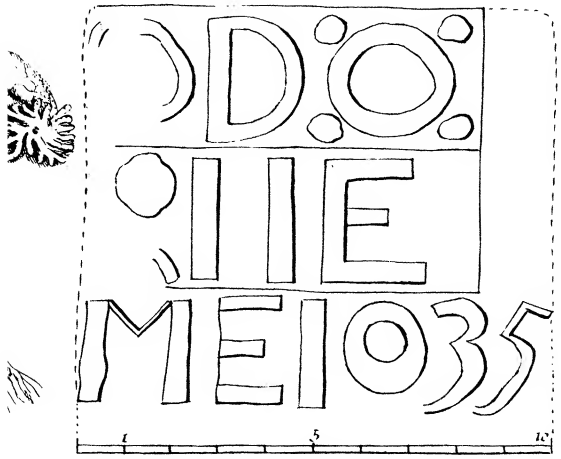
Fig. 3. p. 280.

Fig. 4. p. 288.



A Scale of Inches.

Fig. 2. p. 284.

A Scale of Feet.

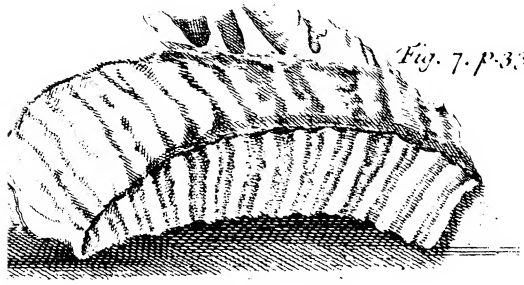


Fig. 7. p. 333.

J. Mynde sc.